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Concluding Paragraph Decade Paper

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Point of View

Thesis Statement

Seattle Born and Bred

In the 1990’s music was a huge part of society, but there was one style that really stuck out in my opinion. This music style is Grunge, which is characterized by distorted guitars and dispirited vocals . Grunge made its first appearance in the early 1990’s in one of my favorite places, Seattle. Seattle is the home to so many grunge influences such as the record label Sub Pop, and bands such as Nirvana and Hole. These bands influenced many others such as the Foo Fighters.

Foo Fighters made their start in 1995 after the death of Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain. The drummer of Nirvana, Dave Grohl, started the band and became a lead singer. Dave started as a one man band and wrote most of the songs found of the first album *Foo Fighters,* while still with Nirvana. Dave had said in 1997, “I was in awe of front man Kurt Cobain’s songs. And intimidated. I thought it was best that I keep my songs to myself”, (Foo Fighters) about why he never brought the songs to Nirvana. The album *Foo Fighters* was released on March 3, 1995, before Cobain’s death in April. After lots of touring, the band finally started recording and released *The Colour and the Shape* in May of 1997. This album had many singles including “My Hero” and “Everlong”, which charted 63 on the top 200 songs of the 1990’s . It seemed things were going great for the band, and then it took a devastating turn. In 1998, Dave had to fire his childhood friend Stahl from the band over creative differences. Dave still had many connections to the music world; after all he was the drummer of Nirvana.

Nirvana is probably one of the most influential bands of all time. They got their start in Olympia, Washington in 1989. It was started by none other that Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic. They had many influences such as Minutemen, Big Black, Black Flag, the Melvins, and Sonic Youth . In 1991, after their 1989 release of *Bleach*, Nirvana parted ways with their label Sup Pop and signed to David Geffen’s DGC Records ; this is when Dave Grohl joined the band. While with this record company they released their second and probably most famous album, *Nevermind.* This album went gold and is now listed on the *Spin* magazine internet ranking of the ninety top albums of the 1990s (100 greatest rock songs of the 1990s, 2006). Soon after, the band performed on *Saturday Night Live* and did one session for *MTV Unplugged*. In 1993, Nirvana released *In Utero*. The band had many songs on the top 200 songs of the 1990s chart such as “Smells like Teen Spirit” at number one. This song has a funny story with it; Kurt had written and produced the song without ever realizing that it was the brand of a teen girl’s deodorant. Another song is “Come as You Are” that fell at number 29, which is now featured on the sign that welcomes you to Seattle. At number 96 the song “All Apologies” landed. Then, at 104 you will find the song “Heart Shaped Box”. And finally and number 146 lands the song “Lithium”. Then after all this success tragedy hit, Cobain was found in the greenhouse above his garage in early April, dead from a gunshot to the head with drugs in his system. He left behind some very important people, his daughter, Francis Bean and his wife, Courtney Love.

Courtney Love is a singer of the grunge band Hole, which was also signed to DGC. The band formed in Los Angeles. A year after the band formed Love met her future husband Cobain after being introduced to by Dave Grohl. After Cobain’s death in 1994, Hole released and album titled *Live through This*. It was said that Cobain was the creativity behind the album and that there wouldn’t have been a new Hole album without Kurt’s help . This was said by Billy Corgan of the Smashing Pumpkins who is actually credited with five of the twelve songs on Hole’s 1999 release *Celebrity Skin*. The song “Celebrity Skin” made number 196 on the top 200 songs of the 1990s.

The 1990s was a very influential time for me not because I grew up in this time period, but because of the people who lived then. It was not because these people were famous; it was the life style they led. It wasn’t the drinking and the partying; it was that they did what they wanted to when they wanted to do it. They didn’t live by the rules of society, they lived by their own. They could actually say they lived and didn’t disappear into black where only some people today would know who they are. These people really inspired me. This is why I chose this decade.